

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD.REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943.

The Minister of Health has requested that for this year interim reports only should be submitted and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

The Crude Death Rate is 12.86 as compared with 13.94 for the previous year and with 12.1 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 24.19 which is considerably lower than that for the Country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough or Measles.

For security reasons the population figures given in this report are not for publication.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

As in previous years every effort was made to persuade parents to accept immunization for their children and during the year 345 were immunized and 1085 Schick tested.

A complete card index system ensures that every child from one to fifteen years of age is recorded, particulars being obtained from the Registrar of births and checked by a list of all under fives from the Food Office. In addition a list is obtained once per month from the Food Office of all children under five who enter the district and also of those who leave. This information ensures that the records are kept up-to-date and accurate.

Every parent on the child's first birthday receives an explanatory leaflet with a stamped acceptance card enclosed for return. Those who do not reply or refuse are visited by a voluntary helper. The same procedure is adopted for new entrants to the district. Clinics are held every term in Haywards Heath, Cuckfield and Lindfield, parents being notified accordingly. Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer attends all Clinics and in cases where it

is impossible for the mother to leave home he visits and gives the injections there. Parents are also given the alternative of taking their children to their own doctors and the Council pays the doctors at the British Medical Association rate of 3/- per injection.

The procedure is similar for school children, each school having its own container. A complete list of children is obtained from the headteacher and every term the list is revised by obtaining particulars of entrants and leavers. Parents whose children have not been immunised are sent an explanatory leaflet and are visited if they do not accept. Clinics are held every term at the schools.

When children come from another area and the parent states her child has been immunized there, a request is made to the Medical Officer of Health for that area for particulars of immunization.

The prophylactic used is A.P.T. the dosage being .3 c.cm followed by .5 c.cm four weeks later. In view of recent investigations on dosage, the second dose has now been reduced to .3 c.cm.

For reasons given in previous years I regard the Schick test as being essential in a proper immunization scheme.

Every parent is given the opportunity of having her child tested three to six months after the second injection. In addition every inoculated child is retested on entering school unless the inoculation and test were done during the previous twelve months. Children who enter from another area are also tested. In addition, during the year, children who had been immunized two years or more previously were retested and the findings of this survey were published in the British Medical Journal on 4th December, 1943. In brief it was found that there was a loss of immunity with the passing of time, ranging from 4% after 2 years to 18% after 6 years.

At the end of the year in the one to five years of age group there were 1014 children and 99 per cent had been immunized and in the five to fifteen years group out of 2440 children the percentage was 96. Private Schools are included in the latter figure.

<u>Name of School.</u>	<u>Percentage immunised in elementary schools.</u>	<u>Figure.</u>
Lindfield Council School		99
Haywards Heath Senior School		97
Haywards Heath St. Wilfrid's Infants		97
Haywards Heath St. Wilfrid's Junior		96
Cuckfield C of E. School		95

My thanks are due to Miss Goodier, a voluntary helper, for interviewing parents who did not accept, keeping of records and making arrangements for the attendance of children at the Clinics; to the headteachers for their help and co-operation and particularly to Dr. Duke who has devoted so much time and energy in co-ordinating the whole scheme.

Five cases of diphtheria were notified, two children and three adults. Four of the cases occurred in one household, two being children who had been immunized in 1940 and were negative when Schick tested some months later. The disease was of a mild form.

Two other children in the same household whose throats were swabbed were found to be harbouring diphtheria bacilli but they did not develop the disease. One had been immunized in 1938 and the other in 1941 and both were Schick negative. The other child in the household had also been immunized, was found not to harbour diphtheria bacilli and did not develop diphtheria. The fact that all five children in this household had been immunized probably prevented serious consequences and enhances the value of immunization.

A child, nine years of age, was admitted to a Children's Hospital and died the same day. The cause of death was certified (a) Acute heart failure (b) Post diphtheritic paralysis. On enquiring at the Hospital the Medical Superintendent informed me that the child on admission was suffering from acute dilatation of the heart and paralysis of the intercostal muscles.

Specimens of lung, tonsil, heart and cord were microscopically examined but failed to support the diagnosis of diphtheritic paralysis.

Fourteen days prior to admission the child had a sore throat and a general practitioner was called in. He examined the throat and diagnosed mild tonsillitis. There were no clinical signs of diphtheria. The child was kept in bed two days and then allowed up. The doctor saw the child two days later and was satisfied that she had recovered. According to the mother the child was perfectly well until ten days after the commencement of the illness when she was sick and vomited. She had a similar attack for the next three days and then suddenly became acutely ill. The same general practitioner was sent for and he took the child in his car to Hospital.

The child came to this district from another area where she had received two injections of A.P.T .1 c.cm followed by .5 c.cm in 1938. She had not been Schick tested.

SCABIES.

Early in 1943 the Council made application to the Ministry of Health for Scabies to be made a notifiable disease and this was granted.

Notification by general practitioners to this office has been found to be of great assistance in dealing with this disease.

All cases are treated at the Haywards Heath Clinic, or at the Sick Bay, Burgess Hill, two applications of Benzyl Benzoate on consecutive days being the routine procedure. All contacts in the same household are seen by the Assistant Medical Officer or myself, those found to be infected receiving two treatments and the others one preventive treatment.

If a certain school appears to be particularly involved an examination of the childrens hands is carried out and many cases have been unearthed in this way. The diagnosis is made by the aid of a magnifying glass. In cases where there is a doubt as to whether the mite is alive or dead the use of a microscope decides the issue. One hundred and ninety-four cases occurred during the year.

HOUSING.

As stated in my Annual Report for 1942 very little repair work to houses had been carried out since 1939 owing to the shortage of labour and restrictions on the supply of material. From 1934 to 1939 considerable attention was given to housing work and the following is a summary of houses dealt with up to the end of 1939:-

Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Act	522
In all respects fit	4
Repairable at reasonable cost	427
In Clearance Areas	11
Not repairable at reasonable cost ...	77
Parts of buildings closed	3

Of the houses repairable at reasonable cost 363 had been made fit, at 43 works were in progress and at 21 nothing had been done. Of the houses not repairable at reasonable cost those in Clearance Areas and 22 individual unfit houses had been demolished, 17 had been made fit, 10 were converted to 5, 9 were vacant and 19 were still in

occupation; a total of 156 persons were rehoused as a result of the above action.

MILK SUPPLY.

The standard adopted is that samples which pass the methylene blue test, have counts of under 200,000 bacteria per c.c. and with absence of coliform organisms in 1/100th c.c. are considered to be satisfactory.

During the year 231 samples of milk were taken and of these all except 12 satisfied all three tests.

It is interesting to compare these results with those in 1936 when of 68 samples taken, 41 had counts of over 200,000, 47 failed the methylene blue test and 35 contained coliform organisms, showing a marked improvement in the bacterial purity in 1943 as compared with 1936. I am quite satisfied that the educative work carried out at the farms and dairies together with the taking of samples has played the main part in effecting this improvement.

Of the samples taken in 1943, 125 were from producers in this district and with one exception all passed the three tests. Seventy samples were taken from retailers and of these 63 passed all the tests, the remaining samples being taken from producer retailers and churns.

It should be noted that of the 12 samples which failed to pass the tests 2 only were produced locally.

During 1943, thirty-six samples of milk were taken for a biological examination, 21 from local producers and 15 from supplies from outside the district, three (8 per cent) of the samples (2 from local producers and one from outside source) were positive. The County Health Department were notified of the positive results, the offending cows being eliminated from the herds.

WATER SUPPLY.

The last house in the district without a piped water supply was provided with such a supply during the year. Monthly samples are taken from the public supply and all were satisfactory.

I am indebted to Mr. Staynes, Senior Sanitary Inspector for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and to the other members of the staff and in particular to Miss Everson my Chief Clerk.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.B. Stott

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year 1943.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	3,912
Population estimated to middle of year	...	...	...	...	...	14,620
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£138,005
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£563
Density of Population (persons per acre)	..	...	...	...	...	3.74
Number of Houses	..	...	...	...	...	4,133
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	16.96
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	12.86
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	24.19

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

	<u>Cause of Death:</u>		<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	...	...	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	1
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	...	2
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	-
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	2
9.	Influenza	...	...	2
10.	Measles	...	...	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	...	...	-
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph. (male) uterus (female)	1	4	
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	4	4
15.	Cancer of breast	..	...	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	6	16
17.	Diabetes	...	...	1
18.	Intra.cran. vasc. lesions	...	10	14
19.	Heart disease	...	22	38
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	5	4
21.	Bronchitis	..	2	4
22.	Pneumonia	...	4	5
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	1	-
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	1	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	.	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	3	4
28.	Nephritis	...	1	3
29.	Puerperal and post-abor. sepsis	...	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	-	-
31.	Premature birth	...	1	2
32.	Con.mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	1	-
33.	Suicide	...	-	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	..	2	-
35.	Other violent causes	...	1	-
36.	All other causes	..	3	6
	Totals	...	<u>71</u>	<u>117</u>

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1943 (Provisional Figures).

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
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		Live Births		Still Births		All causes		Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)
England and Wales	16.5	0.51	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37	-	0.02
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36	-	0.02
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37	-	0.02
London	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27	-	0.02
Cuckfield Urban District	16.96	0.62	12.86	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.21	-	0.00	8.06
										24.19
										Total Deaths under 1 year.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows: per 1,000 Total

0.39 1.45 1.84

The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Urban District are as follows:- . . .

Nil Nil Nil

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THE AREA.

* Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	527
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	325
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	76
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	144
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	112
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	61
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	61
Primary Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	90
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	316
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	187
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	57
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	38
A.R.P.	...	...	...	...	...	52
Evacuation	...	...	...	...	...	85
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	214
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	144
Timber Control	...	...	...	...	...	30
						2534
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	267
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drain tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	38

* Approximately one third of these visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors of the adjoining Rural District.

Complaints: Sixty-five complaints were received and dealt with.

<u>Notices:</u>	Outstanding 1st January, 1943	...	111
	Served during 1943	...	135
	Complied with 1943	...	161
	Outstanding 31st December, 1943	...	85

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection

The fourth year of slaughtering at the Government's selected slaughterhouse continued to require much work late at night to ensure adequate inspection of the carcases of all animals slaughtered. The happy arrangement with officers of the Cuckfield Rural District Council, whereby they carry out about one third of the meat inspection at the selected slaughterhouse was continued and their assistance is much appreciated.

During the year 7209 animals were slaughtered and all were inspected. There were 527 visits to the slaughterhouse and 1008 condemnations involving 42,822 lbs of meat and offals were made.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.

Bulls	...	...	86
Bullocks	...	...	260
Cows	...	...	565
Heifers	...	...	303
Calves	...	...	996
Sheep	...	...	4596
Pigs	...	...	403
Total	...	...	<u>7209</u>

MEAT: CARCASSES OF ANIMALS INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	649	565	996	4596	403
Number inspected	649	565	996	4596	403
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	8	13	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	29	112	7	343	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	4.46	20.00	1.50	7.74	14.88
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	10	32	4	-	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	108	339	3	-	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.18	65.66	0.70	-	6.94
Percentage of the number inspected during 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 affected with Tuberculosis	14.72	55.39	1.18	-	5.91

The above table shows that of 565 cows slaughtered 371 were affected with Tuberculosis in some degree, whilst 484 were in some way diseased. The percentage of cows killed affected with Tuberculosis (65.66) is the highest yet recorded, the figures for 1940, 1941 and 1942 being 47.28; 55.33; and 52.41 respectively.

Of 86 bulls slaughtered 25 were affected with Tuberculosis in some degree.

Of all cattle killed (1214) 489 were affected with Tuberculosis in some degree.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	38	31	-
Diphtheria	5	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	4	-
Pneumonia	4	4	-
Erysipelas	4	4	-
Dysentery	1	1	-
Measles	196	13	-
Whooping Cough	30	-	-
Total:	288	66	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year								65 and over		Totals
	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35			
Scarlet Fever	1	2	3	13	17	-	-	2	1	1	38
Diphtheria	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	-	4
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	4	7	12	13	18	84	31	17	8	1	196
Whooping Cough	3	2	2	3	5	15	-	-	-	-	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Totals	13	9	16	19	24	114	48	17	15	6	288

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1943.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	7	-	-	-	-	2	-
35 - 45	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	10	2	2	1	2	-	-

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	Other Districts
Diphtheria	1	5	6	2
Diphtheria "Carrier"	-	3	2	2
Diphtheria Observation	6	-	1	1
Diphtheria Contact	-	1	-	-
Vincent's Angina	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	46	28	3	1
Scarlet Fever Observation	2	1	-	-
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis Observation	-	-	-	1
Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal	3	-	-	3
Meningitis, Observation	-	1	-	3
Meningitis "Carrier"	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	2	1	-	4
Jaundice	1	1	-	1
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	1
Sonne Dysentery Observation	1	-	-	-
Streptococcal Throat	3	1	-	1
Measles	13	6	12	14
German Measles	-	1	2	1
Whooping Cough	9	1	-	3
Mumps	-	-	-	2
Adenitis	-	1	-	-
Scabies	17	-	5	-
Totals:	105	51	32	41